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If our friends who favor us with manuscripts for tion wish to have rejected articles returned they est in all cases send stamps for that purpose.

neerning the Superciliousness of Labor.

There is heard, now and then, a beed inquiry respecting the occultation Governor FOLK of Missouri and its es. The indifference of labor to the rtunes of FOLK is curiously conspicu-. Is it not true of the whole body of ganized labor that it is prone to manit a hearty contempt for any man in blic life who has abandoned his proper rvictions in order to ingratiate labor? e have observed not a few instances. ey recall the fate of the hapless TAR-TA who betrayed her city to the Sabine diers, who rewarded her by heaping eir bucklers upon her, whereby she was shed to death

We hear it strongly urged that the disant candidacy of the amiable and cellent Secretary of War is foredoomed suse he, as a Judge, rendered many isions that were distasteful to organed labor and prejudicial to its pretenns. We do not believe a word of it. Te hold that WILLIAM H. TAFT possesses e respect and the confidence of the laboring men of this country far more npletely than any man in public life he has sedulously and ostentatiously voted himself to cultivating labor as a as apart. We have in mind when we ay this many public men; the number ludes ROOSEVELT and BRYAN.

There is nothing more honorable to e rank and file of American labor than bs proclivity, upon occasion, for exressing its indifference, if not its hearty ntempt, for those who have sought, and perhaps gained, its suffrages at the at of their own convictions and to the triment of what honor they ever afcted to possess. The slaughter of the Capitoline maiden was a brutal deed. at it lives in history for the best of

Politicians like FOLK, and all his kind, may storm as they please at the ingratie of labor. We do not know of an stance in which tabor ever showed self ungrateful or unmindful of any man who, for no selfish and passing pure of his own, devoted his energies and is intellect to labor's interests. We believe equally that it has never failed to vield a proper regard to the Judge the has fearlessly and faithfully administered the law according to his oath of office and in obedience to his honest conviction. We never knew a man more eath the disdain of men who work than Judge who sought their suffrages by soiling his ermine to enlist their favor.

The ranks of labor are not recruited om among knaves or fools, and labor as much faculty for self-respect as any other element in our social system. We do not believe WILLIAM H. TAFT has s ghost of a chance of being our next sident, but he won't fail of it on the and that he is not an honest man or ause labor is resentful of the fact that when he was on the bench he was an honest Judge.

Two English Graduates of the Executive Hospitality.

Mr. A. MAURICE LOW is the very able correspondent in this country of the London Morning Post, and he also contributes to the first of all the English menthly magazines, the National Review. He is a writer with a most unbecoming propensity for distasteful facts, and he has lately set forth certain matters concerning Mr. ROOSEVELT'S political and financial triumphs in a manner which has not pleased everybody in Lonon any more than it has proved palatable to Everybody in Washington. This has led us to the sobering reflection that dinners and other White House hospitality are of grave disparity of effect.

conspicuous writers for the press, and manner of means conspicuous, have from time to time, of later years, incurred the White House hospitality. Mr. MAURICE Low has not been immune, nor again has Mr. J. St. LOB STRACHEY, the distinguished, learned and profoundly susceptible editor of that great organ of British hebdomadal thought, the Speclator. While the former has emerged from the ordeal with only a momentary impairment of his faculties, regaining their control indeed with unusual celerity, the latter has never emerged at all m the agreeable intoxication which the phenomenon commonly experinced by all who have undergone the ecasion.

We proffer the observation that all

It has come about that while Mr. Low a time betrayed a warm sensibility Mr. ROOSEVELT'S many spiritual lures ad amulets, only to relapse presently nto his wonted intellectual integrity, Mr. STRACHEY has proceeded, cumulaively, from one phase of cerebral prostion to another, until the devotion of he Spectator to the Roosevelt cult has acquired an almost bacchanalian intensity and abandon. The result in both cases is of an admirable advantage to the British public. They enjoy on the one hand the work of the unimaginative and conscientious historian of contemporary events who chronicles the essential and the consequential with cold impartiality, while on the other hand they are regaled with the poetic and unfet-

tered divagations of the man of gentle letters, unrestrained and fancy free. Singular, and passing strange, a hospitality whereof the psychic power is so diverse that it leaves one Englishman unscathed and unadorned and transforms another into a Cockney Jake Riis!

The Assistant Postmaster-General.

It was difficult to believe the recent Washington gossip to the effect that the Hon. FRANK H. HETCHCOCK, Assistant Postmaster-General, had agreed to make another tour of the Southern States, on this occasion in the special interest of the Hon. WILLIAM H. TAFT'S Presidential aspirations. There was a time when the idea of an

important public officer with important public duties to perform abandoning his post for the purpose of exploiting the cause of any candidate would have monopolized the entire field of popular amazement. The particular asperity of the aforesaid proposition, however, consisted in the circumstance that the Hon. FRANK H. HITCHCOCK owes his rescue from the three legged stool of civil service clerkship to the Hon. GEORGE B. CORTELYOU, and to no one else. When the latter became Secretary of Commerce and Labor HITCHCOCK was holding down a dull and hopeless desk in the Department of Agriculture. CORTELYOU gave him a bureau. Afterward, mounting to the portfolio of the General Post Office, he took HITCHCOCK for his First Assistant. Such favors may easily be wasted, but Mr. HITCHCOCK seems to be a gentleman of right feeling who knows no ingrate strain.

Who can say? For our part we incline to the reasonable opinion that Mr. HITCH-COCK isn't going South at all.

Let the Knickerbocker Trust Company Resume Business.

A grave question which not only affects this whole community but reaches far in its outside effects and external influences is whether the Knickerbocker Trust Company shall be permitted to resume business as a trust company or shall be forced into the hands of permanent receivers; whether it shall be regenerated and inducted into a new life of future prosperity and usefulness or shall be cut off summarily, obliterated and crushed out of existence.

It needs no argument to convince business men or almost any other intelligent man familiar even to a mild extent with business affairs that the continuance of a receivership or the conversion of temporary receivers into permanent receivers is a step to be avoided, because it is the ultimate step which compels the wasting of assets and forces the sacrifice of securities which if properly nursed for a moderate length of time might be sold or redeemed at par.

The practical question is: Shall the temporary receivers of the Knickerbocker Trust Company be made permanent receivers and continued in power so as to wind up the company and end it forever, or shall the plan of resumption which has been submitted by the depositors' committee be adopted? This assets, to rehabilitate the company and make it an active going concern. In this way the sacrifice of income derived will be avoided.

who will select new direct paid in \$2,400,000, and no dividends will be paid on the capital stock of the company until the depositors are paid off in The depositors will receive 70 per cent, of their deposits in the form of transferable certificates and 10 per cent. cash upon the date of resumption. Moreover, it is confidently hoped that within two years and four months after the date of resumption the depositors will have been paid in full. Meantime they will receive 3 per cent, interest on their balances.

GROVER CLEVELAND wrote to the depositors' committee on Saturday;

" I suppose the assignment of my deposit accounagainst the trust company heretofore transmitted to the committee has placed me among those who upon the plan adopted by the committee for relief than upon the slow, expensive, wasting and always disappointing procedure of legal receivership."

This sentence of our former President tells the exact truth. A legal receivership is proverbially slow; it is ever expensive it is inevitably wasting and always disappointing. The word "receivership," like the words of kindred implication, "insolvency" and "bankruptcy," carries the meaning of unnecessary waste, of fearful expenditure and of utter destruction.

The temporary receivers in a report published last Sunday call attention to statements with respect to the probable would say some also who are by no cost of the receivership and endeavor to argue that a permanent receivership is a good thing and that the fees of receivers and their counsel are somewhat trivial. These gentlemen say:

"The fees of the receivers themselves are limited by law in the aggregate to a sum to be fixed by the court, and in no event to exceed 214 per cent, of the amount of money's passing through their hands, The receivers have also entered into agreements, subject to the approval of the court, with the three counsel whom they have been authorized to retain, and which agreement is shortly to be submitted for the approval of the court, under which the aggregate amount of fees of said counsel cannot exceed threequarters of 1 per cent, upon the amount of moneys passing through the hands of the receivers."

" It will be obvious that the statements referred to are greatly exaggerated and that the expenses of the receivership cannot amount to any extravagant or undue amount, in view particularly of the limitations of the statute and the requirement that all of these amounts shall be approved by the

What seems obvious to a receiver may not be so manifest to a crippled depositor. Whether the expenses of a receivership are "extravagant" or not depends somewhat on one's point of view, and an impartial or even a moderate estimate can hardly be logically expected from a receiver or his counsel. An amount however large, provided it does not violate some statutory limit, must necessarily seem to a receiver to be not "undue "

If the temporary receivers are made permanent by order of the court the loss to the depositors will amount to over

amount to \$1,700,000, while the \$2,400,000 ary were not as mild as the corresponding already paid in by stockholders will not then be available. This fact and the fact and of the speedy discharge of the temporary receivers. On the other hand, if the temporary receivers should be made permanent it is not at all certain that the depositors will ever receive more than one-half of their deposits, while if the plan of resumption be adopted it would seem to be morally certain that every dollar due will eventually be paid in full to every depositor.

Justice LESTER W. CLARK of the Supreme Court, sitting in Richmond county, before whom this matter has been heard from time to time, has shown and it is to be hoped that on the hearing he will grant such further time as may be necessary to assure the success of the resumption plan.

The effect of the resumption of business by this trust company will be not only salutary but far reaching, and it will tend to increase the confidence of the business community in the general situation and the confidence of the public at large in the administration of our courts. THE SUN advises all its readers who happen to be depositors to assent at once to the resumption plan as proffered.

Cuba's Future in Her Own Hands. Should American intervention in Cuba cease and determine in the opening months of 1909 and the Cubans live happily for the next thousand years or so under a government of their own, THE Sun's hallelujah would be sounded with genuine satisfaction. We are, however, inclined to an opinion that it is not altogether wise for either Cubans or Americans to be overconfident.

The reports of economic prosperity in the island are gratifying and we hope they are entirely justified. Private advices from Cuba are somewhat less exuberant than are the official reports. They call attention to certain dangers and possible dangers, which may prove to be entirely individual or local and of no serious influence on the general situation. There is now little reason to doubt that the sugar crop will fall below that of last season by 20 or 25 per cent. This, coupled with the returns from the beet sugar crop of Europe, has caused an improvement in prices which will to some extent offset the decrease in quantity. The customs receipts for the calendar

year 1907 indicate an increase of nearly 10 per cent, in the value of imports. One questionable feature in the present asserted prosperity appears in the fact that it dmittedly rests to an appreciable extent on the expenditure of a treasury surplus for public works. Cuba has need of good country roads, bridges, lighthouses and harbor improvements, but there is only a doubtful wisdom in a burdensome taxation for the purproposes to avoid a rash liquidation of pose of constructing them and, even incidentally, of giving wor; to the otherwise unemployed. A treasury surplus has ever been Cuba's greatest bane. from established business as a trustee In earlier days Spanish taxation brought a surplus which Spanish official; put into The majority of the capital stock will their pockets, thereby causing much be put in the hands of three voting trus- Cuban anger and resentment. The surolus obtained during the Palma régin set the Cubans to quarrelling with each other for its use and distribution. In spite of unusually heavy expenses during the last year, payments on account of the revolt of 1906 and expenditures for public works, the Treasury of the island holds a balance of about \$15,000,000. The revenues appear to be at least a third greater than the normal expenditures. The present Administration may be making a better use of the surplus than did its Cuban and Spanish predecessors, but if the island is soon to be turned back to Cuban hands we can leave them no more dangerous legacy than a fiscal ystem yielding a huge surplus.

The political condition of the island is far from encouraging. Zayista Liberals and Miguelista Liberals are as far apart as ever, and there is as yet no well organized Conservative opposition to these wrangling factions. There are indications of an important movement in favor of General MARIO MENOCAL, who would doubtless have a strong conservative following and who would probably draw a considerable support from the ranks of both Zayistas and Miguelistas, particularly in the event of his seeming to stand a good chance of election. It is difficult to forecast the situation, but even from the present standpoint, after fifteen months of opportunity for the establishment of political peace, it seems almost hopeless unless ALFREDO ZAYAS or José Miguel Gomez, or both, can be induced to withdraw entirely from the political arena. Even in that case it is probable that the scramble for the vacancies created would bring about conditions not much better than those now

Whatever the wishes or the plans of the American Administration, the transfer of the Cuban government is subject to the condition laid down by Secretary TAFF on leaving Havana last April. After reviewing the situation as he had found it and outlining his general plans for elections and American withdrawal Mr. TAFT said:

"The carrying out of this plan, of course, is strictly dependent on the tranquillity of the country, which must continue through two elections and which must give assurance of the stability of the new Government, because without this the United States would not be discharging the obligation devolving upon it by reason of the inter-

It will be noticed that the word "must is twice used in this declaration. The transfer of Cuba's government depends upon the force of our obligation to get out in accordance with conditional pledges in comparison with our obligation to continue American control for the purpose of maintaining peace and insuring the safety of life and property. The issue is in the hands of the Cubana themselves.

Reports of dandelions breaking the turf and flowers in the dooryard blooming persist from rural centres beyond the reach of

\$4,000,000, because the admitted fees of urban investigation. The truth as to this the receivers and their counsel will city is that the first fourteen days of Januperiod of last year. In 1907, according to the official thermometer, the maximum temperature was 60 degrees on January 7. that the owners of deposits of over and the minimum was 22 on January 9 and \$30,000,000 have already assented to the 10. The average maximum temperature resumption plan should be conclusive for the fourteen days in 1907 was 15 degrees, in behalf of the resumption of business | and the average minimum temperature was 36.55. The first fourteen days in January, 1908, may have furnished more sunshine, but they contained less warmth in the shade. The maximum temperature was 17 degrees on January 12 and the minimum was 16 degrees on January 5. while the average maximum temperature for the fourteen days was 37.78 degrees and the average minimum was 30.

If we go back to mid-December, 1907, about the time the present mild weather began, and compare the last seventeen days of the year with the corresponding period of 1906, we find that 1907 was mild and 1906 wintry. From December 15 to 31, inclusive, 1906, the highest temperature a fair, just and admirable spirit thus far, | was 56 degrees on December 15, and the lowest was 10 degrees on December 24 while the average maximum for the whole period was 38 degrees and the average minimum was 29.62 degrees. The maximum during the corresponding time in 1907 was also 56 degrees on December 23 and the minimum was 27 degrees on December 20; the average maximum was 43 degrees and the average minimum 36 degrees. From December 23 to 26, inclusive, in 1906 the weather was seasonably cold, whereas on the same days in 1907 the temperature ranged from 35 to 56 degrees. The records cited are for lower Manhattan, but up in the air at that; suburban diaries should not be used to confute them. It will be generally agreed that for vernal mildness and clearness of skies the weather from December 15, 1907, to January 14, 1908, has not often been equalled.

There are many brave men who before AGAMEMNON; and one of them, JOSEPH BENSON FORAKER, was fighting with his regiment, the Eighty-ninth Ohio. when THEODORE ROOSEVELT was, according to his most adoring biographer. "a little lad in stiff white petticoats, with a curl right on top of his head." Before this little lad had reached the school which was to prepare him for Harvard, Captain (enlisted private) FORAKER had been schooled in Ohio politics well enough to make a successful fight for a Superior Judgeship.

In view of the various current inquiries, involving criticism more or less imperative, touching the insistence in official circles upon "Santo" Domingo, whereas other names of islands, towns, &c., similarly derived from the Spanish have had to put up with the familiar contraction San," we are reminded of the time honored proverb, "Solo hay tres Santos." It is a curious and most interesting fact that the Spaniards admit to their nomenclature only three full spelled saints-Domingo, Tomas and Tome. All the rest of them, Francisco. Antonio and so on, have to make the most of the diminutive "San." The differentiation is not capricious, therefore. Our Government authorities may have taken liberties with the Spanish language in changing the name of "Puerto Rico" to "Porto Rico," but in dealing with the names of the saints they have followed strictly in the footsteps of the original tradition.

Assemblyman McGrath, who has introduced at Albany a bill amending the New York automobile law by requiring the driver of a car to stop and give to a person run over by it, or to a policeman or peace officer, the names and addresses of himself and the owner of the car, should examine the similar provision of the New Jersey law. It provides that the driver shall not stop but return to the scene of the accident and "give to any proper person demanding the same his number, the number ber of his driver's license and the registration number of the motor vehicle and he names and residences of each and every male occupant of said motor vehicle." information thus obtained is useful not only to the injured person in a suit which he may bring, but also to the public prosecutor. Experience in New Jersey has shown, however, that in a case that looks like manslaughter the occupants of a car will sometimes run away in spite of the law

Senator PROCTOR of Vermont, who wants the seining for pike by Canadians in Lake Champlain made an international question, declares that pike are the best fish in the lake This is generally the opinion of Vermonters. They reject the pickerel and declare it may be good for fertilizing, but for little else. Strangers often find the pike earthy in flavor, and prefer the bass, yellow perch and even the despised pickerel.

JOHN GRAHAM BROOKS, the eminent sociologist. With respect, the adjective is tautological. All sociologists are eminent.

NEW YORK STATE. Mr. Bryan Can't Carry It, but There Are

Democrats Who Can. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir admirer of Mr. Bryan in this morning's SUN asks the writer to "name the man who can poll more votes than Mr. Bryan or who can carry New York State if Mr. Bryan cannot This same admirer also gives the vote received by Mr. Bryan in 1896 and 1900 in the country at large and in New York State as ompared with that received by Mr. Parker in 1904, to the disadvantage of the latter.

The merest tyro in politics understands the reason for this poor showing on Judge the reason for this poor showing on Judge Parker's part. In 1994 Theodore Roosevelt was a candidate for the Presidency. To a large proportion of those voters who had supported Mr. Bryan in 1896 and 1900 Mr. Roosevelt was a far more attractive figure than Judge Parker. Then, former supporters of Mr. Bryan saw in Mr. Roosevelt a man whose policies and character resembled in many ways those of the statesman from Nebraska. They therefore voted for Mr. Roosevelt by the hundreds of thousands. On the other hand, Mr. Roosevelt, consummate politician that he was, so handled his own party that he polied practically its solid vote. Under these circumstances the only wonder is that Mr. Roosevelt's majority was not larger.

wonder is that Mr. Roosevelt's majority was not larger.

But things have happened since 1994, and Mr. Roosevelt will not be a candidate for the Presidency in 1998. The question then becomes pertinent: Is there any Democrat who can be named to oppose the Republican candidate who will be stronger than Mr. Bryan in New York State? To this I reply that it has aiready twice been clearly proved, and is a matter of absolute knowledge to-day, that Mr. Bryan cannot boll the united vote of his party in New York State. There are at least 199,000 Democrats here who under no circumstances will ever vote for him. His chances of obtaining the electoral vote of this State therefore are absolutely hopeless. To claim that there is a sufficient defection in the ranks of the Republican party in New York State to-day to give Mr. Bryan its electoral vote is absurd. Such a claim is based on the wildest fancy, without a shred of evidence or fact to sustain it.

Admitting, as your correspondent tacity does, that they vote of New York State is as

dence or fact to sustain it.

Admitting, as your correspondent tacitly does, that the vote of New York State is essential to Democratic success, the wisdom of nominating some man who is stronger than Mr. Bryan in this State therefore, of course, pecomes apparent. John A. Johnson of Minnesota, Woodrow Wilson of New Jersey Jeorge Gray of Delaware would, any one o them, poll at least 100,000 more votes for the Democratic ticket in New York State than Mr. Bryan. As against William H. Taft, any one of these three men could, in the writer's judgment, carry New York State, and land New Jersey and Connecticut as and land New Jersey and Connecticut as well in the Democratic column. Is not this worth trying for? Is not this better than being handlcapped with a candidacy that means the inevitable loss—as has already twice been proved—of these three States indispensable to Democratic success?

A DEMOCRAT FOR VICTORY.

NEW YORK, January 15.

BLACK AND WHITE AND DUTCH.

Mr. Keppel offers a feast of rare black and white at his galleries, 4 East Thirty-ninth street, in his exhibition of early Italian prints. Such giants of the burin as Antonio Pollaiuolo, Andrea Mantegna and Maroantonio Raimondi are surrounded by lesser, though as interesting lights, Zoan Andrea, Giovanni da Brescia, Cristoforo Robetta, the Master of the Rat Trap, Montagna, Mocetto, Campagnola, Barbari, Beccafumi, Massys, Francia, Agostino Veneziano, Caraglio, Bonasone, Vico, Sculptore, Ghisi, Carracci, Jean Duvet, Lucchese, the School of Fontainebleau and Ribera, the only painter born in Spain known to have been a ine engraver.

Dr. F. Lippmann in his book on engraving devotes several chapters to Italian engraving. He scouts Vasari's story of the Florentine goldsmith, Maso Finiguerra, having discovered in 1450 the method of printing engraved plates. The earliest date, says Lippmann, on any engraving executed in Italy was first seen in a series of engraved illustrations for a book printed at Florence in 1477, "El Monte Sancto di Dio" (God's Holy Mountain). He says: "Primitive Italian engravings consist usually of hard and heavy outlines dug deeply into the metal. Inside these outlines the shadows are expressed, or as a rule simply suggested, by a few sets of oblique lines laid evenly and without cross hatchings. This modelling with straight sloping lines remained for a considerable time a characteristic peculiarity of Italian engraving." By no means a certainty, our authority thinks it possible that the secret of printing engraved plates passed from Italy to Germany. Mr. David keppel in his notes to this exhibition tells us that the first Italian engravings were made with a view to multiplying original sketches, and that the "Italian school has a peculiar freshness due to the fact that the prints come down to us straight from the drawings of the greatest masters.'

Pollaiuolo's "Gladiators"-the only print that Kristeller says can with certainty be ascribed to him-with its mighty line, a line that anticipated Angelo, hangs in the place of honor. It is a violent, withal powerful composition. Chained fighters jab each other ferociously with swords. A cruel, crowded plate, it exhibits all the temperamental earmarks of this painter and goldsmith, who worked in Florence and Rome. It illustrates admirably Mr. Berenson's ascription to the work of Pollaiuolo of superiority in tactile values and vivacious movement. One misses neither space, composition nor color, so unhearably vivid and vital are the attitudes and gestures of these men brutes. What a line! Raphael's gracious line, though interpreted by the brilliant Marcantonio Raimondi, hanging hard by on another wall, is sleek and insipid in comparison with the dragon slayer, Pollaiuolo.

There are seven Mantegnas—a rich gathering. He has been called by Cumberland the "Dante of his profession," a profoundly inept comparison, probably based on his "Christ Descending Into Hell," "The Entombment" and similar plates. Mantegna, like Botticelli, was a pagan of the Renaissance. His sympathies were all for the antique. his style enormously influenced by classic sculpture and bas-reliefs. His Virgins are Roman, and while the mediæval motive is unmistakable in the wonderful "Christ Descending Into Hell," Mantegna was happier in invention when depicting the combat of the Tritons, bacchanals and designs of that sort. But he was an engraver of the classic line and a master of expression. Those damned souls loitering without the portals of Hades, while a devil blows noisily through a conchlike horn (they were probably music critics on earth and this is their torture-there is no mistaking the malice of the demon, nor the suspicion that he is blowing out of tune) are very expressive. So is the image of the Saviour, who is undaunted by the gloomy environment and horrid sights.

Of the Marcantonios there are ten examples, and his noble if occasionally rhe-There is a plate by Michele Lucchese (1550) which looks as if it had been executed yesterday, so clear and fresh the printing. It represents Moses striking water from the rock. Ribera's "Poet" is a seldom encountered specimen, and the Sculptores, Giovanni Battista, and Diana, believed to have been his daughter, and Adamo Sculptore, called his son, are also represented The elder Sculptore-or Scultore, born 1503 worked under Giulio Romano. Lippnann does not approve of Bartsch and Bryan attributing to this gifted group the name of Ghisi; Giorgio Ghisi was of another family. "Hercules Suffocating Antæus," by Giovanni Battista Sculptore, is a fine design. Diana's work may be seen in her "Birth of Apollo" and "The Sacrifice of a Bull to Jupiter." There are three specimens of Annibal Carracci, and one by his brother, Agostino. This exhibition, which continues until February i, is a particularly refreshing one. It conveys the sense of an art just at its glorious awakening. And how difficult it was to bring together these seventy-four plates may be gleaned from a footnote to Mr. Keppel's catalogue, in which he thanks Francis Bullard, Junius S. Morgan, and Dr. H. M. Painter for their generous loans of "a number of important prints in this exhibition."

The original etchings by E. M. Synge, A. R. E., hung in the rear gallery of Arthur Tooth & Sons, corner of Thirty-first street and Fifth avenue, are attracting almost as much attention from amateurs as they did when first shown at the Connell Galleries in old Bond street, London, last season, Mr. Synge is said to be a cousin of the talented Irish playwright who wrote "The Well of the Saints' and "The Playboy of the Western World." Where he studied we do not know, but even if some of his plates show that he has come under the compelling magic of Whistler and the minute realism of Pennell, there is no mistaking his individuality of style and performance. More than a hundred examples are on view. The Spanish set first catches the eye, rich in tone and displaying a remarkable feeling for architectural beauties His line is versatile. He works with freedom. "The Gateway of Justice." "Granada," "Toledo" and "The Alcazar" are noble prints. A picturesque view is the Court of the Mosque, Alhambra, Granada, pierced at the rear by an ornate opening which gives us a second and more delightful picture. Mr. Synge knows how to suggest atmosphere. He has also the artistic pulse which beats in unison with the genius of place. "On the Meuse at Argenteau" as specifically French as Knaresborough is English. The Villa d'Este at Tivoli shows us a long alley of trees, with a distant view of the old palace-the Abbé Liszt occupied for many years a room in it at the top, from the windows of which he could sweep the Campagna and Rome; one of these windows is indicated by Synge-and is full of color. The Borghese scene is also charming. Not all the etchings are equal. nor are all the etcher's choices of themes happy. He is sometimes cold and metallic, and occasionally lacks distinction. But he is well worth studying at Tooth's. Wilhelm Funk announces an exhibition

of pictures at Knoedler's soon. He will show portraits of Sir Caspar Purdon Clarke, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Jay Gould, Mrs. Dandridge

Spottswood, Mr. James MacLean, Mrs. Ed-

rard A: Wickes and others. Mr. Charles P. Gruppe has seventeen of his Dutch landscapes and views at the Ochme Galleries, Fifth avenue, northwest corner of Thirty-second street. This artist is favorably known here for both his oils and watercolors. He is a man of sincere moods, though not always successful in capturing the passing vision. A lover of Holland, he exploits its sunny flatlands, its odd corners of canals, its rich meadows with browsing cattle. With his sober palette and a careful touch he evokes bits of Katwyk. Rotterdam, Leyden, Voorburg and The Hague. A canal in old Delft is good to gaze upon; so is "Ketwin From the Field," simple in motive and well realized. The homely atmosphere of his adopted country he feels, and he sets forth this feeling without rhetorical flourishes and in an appropriate color garb.

WATER DISTRIBUTION.

Commissioner John H. O'Brien Describes the Embarrassments and Achievements of the New York Water Department.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: I quote from your editorial of yesterday morning It is doubtful also if there is another city of imof the water distribution is as criminally negligent and incapable. It is generally impossible when an emergency occurs to increase the pressure at the hydrants until long after the emergency bas departed. Is it fair to attempt to convict the Department of Water Supply of criminal negligence

and incapacity on the statement that "it is generally impossible when an emergency occurs to increase the pressure of the hy-drants until long after the emergency has departed"? The Croton system was planned for gravity distribution, except at the high levels which are supplied by the pumping stations at Ninety-eighth street and 179th street. In the teratory surrounding the Parker Building there is no means of pressure except gravity. At the time of the fire all the gates connecting the distribution lines thereabouts were open and water flowed to the hydrants at the maxmum pressure possible. Of course the pressure decreases in proportion to the water leing taken from the surrounding mains. On the morning after the fire, while nine engnes were hooked up to the hydrants at this pont, there was a pressure of ten pounds at each engine between the hydrant and the enrine. Park Reservoir was then, and always is amply stored with water, and under a gravity system it is absolutely certain that there was the same volume of water available when the fire broke out as when our tests were made with these nine engines in operation. It should not be overlooked that the enginee of a fire steamer responding on a first alarm puts only seventy-five pounds pressure on his engine (the engine valves tre set at that pressure), increasing it to upward of 200 pounds as the necessity becomes apparent. The engine pressure, the size of the main and the number of engines hooked to the same main are elements not always taken into account in newspaper descriptions of water shortage at fires.

It was to meet this deficiency d a gravity supply for fire purposes that Maye McClellan planned and built the high pressure service, Was it criminal negligence and acapacity for the Water Department to haste, the laying of sixty-two miles of these highpressure mains so that the system was complited five months inside the period which the ontract, allowed?

If, as the Board of Fire Underwriers has estimated, insurance rates will be educed 20 per cent, in the territory covered by this service when the pumping stations at put n operation the coming spring, the butness interests will save in one year in insurned remiums the full cost of installing the vstem. Is that management the sort to be characterized as criminal negligence? Is THE SUN aware that the Fire Under riters pointed out that two danger zone downtown were the tenement house district south of Houston street and east of the Bowwamp, and that under the McClellan administration the old six inch mains were replaced by twelve inch mains all through that territory? Was it criminal foresight that let the contracts for this improvement even before the underwriters' report called attention to the fire hazard there?

The files of THE SUN testify to the efficiency of the high pressure fire service installed at tion. What element of criminal incapacity is found in protective measures of that type?

JOHN H. O'BRIEN. New York, January 15. Commissioner.

The Physical Condition of Admiral Evans Was HINGTON, Jan. 15 .- The announcement from Rio de Janeiro that Admiral Evans is too ill to participate in the hospitable ceremonies attendant on the arrival of his fleet vil surprise no one familiar with the man and his physical condition at this end of the line. Robiey Evans has been "a sick man" for several years. As far back as the days of the Harrison administration, 1880-1893, he was the victim of inflammatory rheumatic Long, weary time he spent in hospitals, at Hot Springs, Ark., and elsewhere, under going heroic surgical operations for the removal of chalky deposits in his various joints. Later we heard of him as a valetudinarian reduced to diets of patent foods, denatured milk and so forth. One less opulently equipped in the matter of physique and stubborn vitality and indomitable will would ng ago have declined upon the sevel of a hopeless invalid. But his mind was always clear, his courage imperturbable, his purpose fixed and brilliantly defined. And so he seized the opportunity and sailed.

The fact remains, however, that those best quainted with his physical condition have been expecting just such news as now comes to them from Rio. What will surprise them really would be a message from the Pacific Coast to the effect that he had reached therein perfect physical condition.

A Quotation From Phillips Brooks.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: In an interesting little volume from the pen of the late Phillips Brooks, entitled "Perennials which is recorded a philosophical thought for each day of the year, he says under date of April 1: "Gravity is not inconsistent with the keenest perception of the ludicrous side of things. It is more than consistent with-it is even necessary to-humor. Humor involves the perception of the true proportions of life

ou cannot encourage it too much. In these days when the symbol of gravits is the menacing arm and closed fist, and the merry face of Humor has given place to dental trade mark, what a far cry it seems to the quiet times of Phillips Brooks! But why did he record this thought under the date of April 1? Can it have proceeded from the combination of his own delicious sense of humor with a hitherto unsuspected gift of so-called second sight? ALFRED ORD. TORONTO, January 13.

An Ex-President in Congress.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: If Red sentative Bennet's bill to give the President at the end of his term a seat in Congress with out a vote but with a voice and salary should pass and Mr. Roosevelt should take a seat in congress, would any one else in that body have a voice?

No member of House or Senate would have chance to state his opinions. Give him a rest. This is from one of his old NEW YORK, January 15.

Precipitate Apprehension "She is soon to be the bride of wealth, As her beauty rare bents. Her hand, her heart, her soul she gives To a millionaire from Pitts

"Oh, heaven! Say no more, I pray! And must she thus tempt fate?

Ere it shall be too late?" Too late! Too late! The troth is passed And she his bride will bet

From Pittsville, Tennessee

CITY SECURITIES.

Legal Suggestion as to the Impairment of Obligations. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir . In my opinion the proposed amendment to the State Constitution permitting cities of this

State to issue bonds in excess of the 10 per cent, of the assessed realty values of such cities, to which they are now restricted, sil-ject to taxation, provided that the improv-ments to pay for which such bonds are itsued shall bring in sufficient revenue to pay the interest on such bonds, would appear to be in direct conflict with that provision of the United States Constitution which prohibits any State from passing any act which would impair the obligations of existing contracts. It is a misnomer to call such municipal obligations bonds. They are really interest bearing notes secured only by the good faith and credit of the city and the various sefeguards such as those under discussion which have been thrown around them. So long as the present obligations are outstanding seems to me to be a very clear proposition that no change can be made in respect to ine safeguards existing at the time that they were issued, without a pinin violation of the portract then made between the purchaser are

would never have bought them except on the faith of such constitutional safeguards. I believe the whole scheme to be the worse possible policy on the part of the city and State. I write this letter to call your attertion to a phase of the situation which appears to have been entirely overlooked.

the city. This constitutional provision war as much a part of the contract in the eye of

the law, and for that matter in the contempla

tion of the parties, as if it had been written across the face of the bonds. Tens of mile-

ions worth of these bonds have been sold to various institutions and individuals who

THE BLESSED POLITICS OF OLD MASSACHUSETTS.

NEW YORK, January 15.

Vivid Presentation of the Facts of the Situation.

Boston, Jan. 15 .- It begins to look as it Lieutenant-Governor Draper of Massachusetta, who comes up for Governor next November, might once more have to move for tariff revision, hoping the same will not prevail.

This will shock standpatters from Gloucester to Attleboro, for the Democrats are split into three factions and a Hoist side show. One by one the several wings of the army which n 1905 under General Henry M. Whitney came within 1,000 votes of beating Mr. Draper have moulted or fluttered off by themselves Citizen Whitney has repaired to the bosky dales of Quebec, where in picturesque over alls he is cutting asbestos lumber, which comes in free. Of his two fellow charter members of the Roosevelt Ananias Club, it is votes at present in Cambridge or Newton, while the Hon. Andrew G. Webster is as if he had never been. Colonel William E. Brig-ham, guide, philosopher and friend of the Hon. Eugene N. Foss, has disappeared as if the earth had opened and swallowed him. Dr. Henry B. Blackwell, who assisted at the birth of the Republican party and after fortynine years was carried by the Democrats on the tariff, is concentrating himself upon woman suffrage. Former Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Charles Sumner Hamlin, who has been known to address on revision an audience from the rear platform at every station from Provincetown to Brockton and speak at twenty-five ward rallies in Boston in the evening without fracturing his voice, is defending litigious young lobsters at Matta-Former Representative John Sullivan, who knows by name every iron and glass works in the Commonwealth which has been driven to Pittsburg by the tariff, is seated in the Finance Commission, viewing with what regret he can command the dust which is settling after the sad but heautiful spectacle which John helped pull off last month, the fall of Fits. Colonel William 4. Gaston, who nursed the party back to life after its almost fatal attack of George Fred Williamsitis, stands at a window of his fine new National Shawmut Bank Building, and every time a motor car passes cries out ery, and the chemical district, known as the goes another mortgaged home!" Governor Guild, who when the Democrats were prodfing him would as soon eat a standpatter as ok at one, has forgotten all about it. What protection does protection need?

Conel Albert Clarke of the Home Market h has not written a standpat letter to the Boton Herald for months. Son-in-law Gus Gainer has left off making faces at Fighting Berle ever since Sale, back on the map for the third ti Geneal William F. Draper, the candidate's broth, who once in State convention cried Tishetter to stand pat and lose than wabble

and wh!" is engrossed in the manufacture pitter boat paddle wheels, the patents wheret free trade doth not corrupt reciprosty break through and steal. All is quiet aing the Merrimack Yet repor saith that on three nights in suc-

cession le Lieutenant-Governor has dreamed of a dar man with a bundle. Whether this mysterio reticule contains Mr. Williams Springfle Dan Kiley, Jojo Lomasney, brother to the Kin, Grenville MacFarland, who carries the Hist bag sine que non, and other factional ad Hoist "leaders," and whether the dark mn is on his way to drown them like superflus kittens, deponent saith not. Certes it is hispered that recent events, mercantile an industrial, have sore chastened the proletaril, and men in the Democratic party and its de show are willing to wabble the limit, event their depredations on male-factory wealthir only they can win. Meetings of more oress legally accredited Democratic State committeemen come three times a week, when harmonious elements are promptly elimined by the withdrawal of everybody else, we reconvene without them subsequently.

Suppose the Demirata should get together!
Will Mr. Draper aft all presently find himself once again colding to a hypnotized public that he is heavy in favor of Canadian reciprocity and confide it can be staved off?

The Fireproof Problem.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE St. Sir: While seeking to place the responsibility or the lack of water and for defective hose, caus largely responsible for the serious character othe Parker Building fire, the authorities should loa further and deter-mine whether the law was violed in the construc-tion of that building, and if so ho is responsible. The building was called firepry. Its walls and floors were fireproof, but it was tiginally an open jot building, and it is said that the of the partitions erected on the different floo was fireproof. It is evident, if this is true, that su a structure is more dangerous than a non-firepro one owing to the greater height of building permisd.

The essence of fireproof constructor lie fireproof partitions as well as firepro floor IC'n lies in the ings and outer walls, by which in ca of fire the ings and outer waits, by waits in the of here the blaze will be confined on all sides, to and bottom. to a small space until it can be extinguised. It is safe to say that in such a fireproof sucture no water or lack of attention.

But when a floor space 100 by 100 let s unpro-tected by dreproof partitions, and further furnished with partitions that serve to fet instead of to check flames, it is evident that the is next to a certainty of the great heat weakeng the steel framework of the floors above and bew.spreading from floor to floor and finally wkening the entire structure to the collapsing point If the law permits such constructions the quickene law to NEW YORK, January 18.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Inur Sunday Issue appeared a letter written by eights. and I desire to respond by asking why it hat the English are always chosen to be the form at-tempted American wisteriams.

It seems to me that the expression of Ping which "Heights" is given is not alone cle vulgar.

There is no doubt that, to my mind, the glish

friend was too courteous to do more than ve a oncommittal reply. ENGLISHWO BROOKLYN, January 14.

The Virtuous Citizen. Knicker-Has Jones an awakened souss of te.

Bocker-Yes; he hasn't any taxes to sweet,

Knicker—Is he in the hospital? Bocker—Yes, but I don't know whether he

borse in an army test or the goat at the log

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